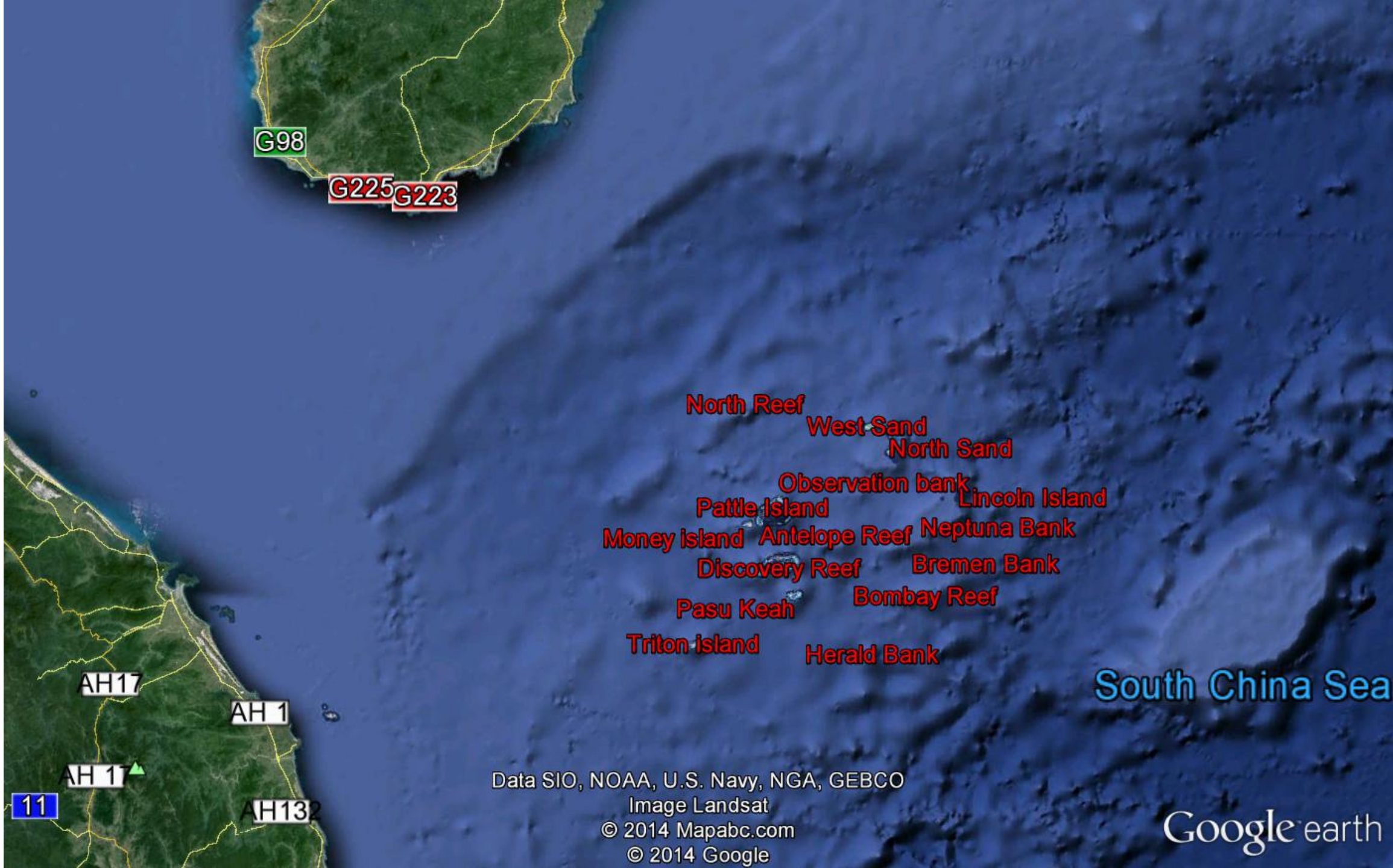


Disputes between Viet Nam and China in the South China Sea: A Legal Analysis

The Sovereignty over the Paracels



North Reef

West Sand

North Sand

Observation bank

Pattle Island

Lincoln Island

Money Island

Antelope Reef

Neptuna Bank

Discovery Reef

Bremen Bank

Pasu Keah

Bombay Reef

Triton Island

Herald Bank

South China Sea

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

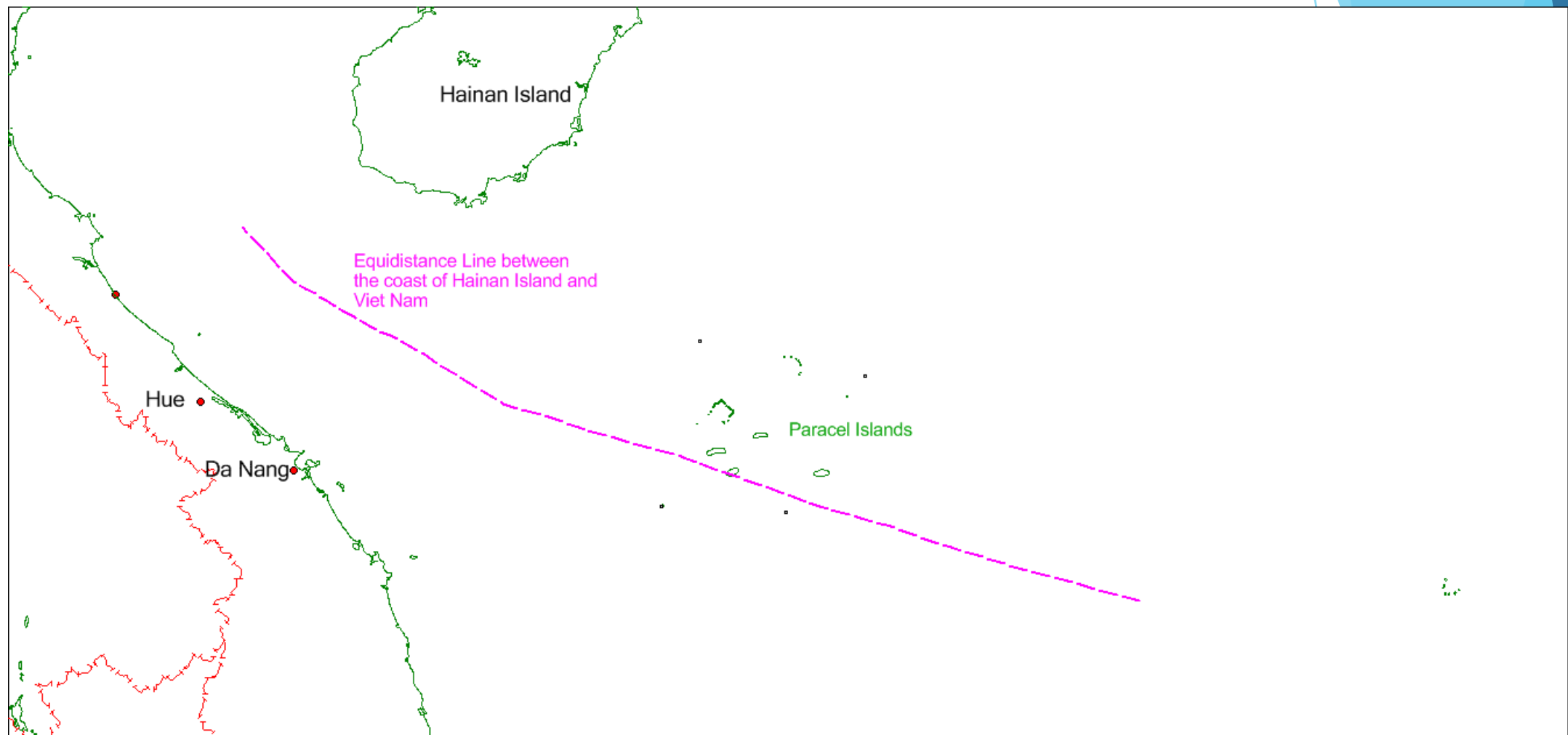
Image Landsat

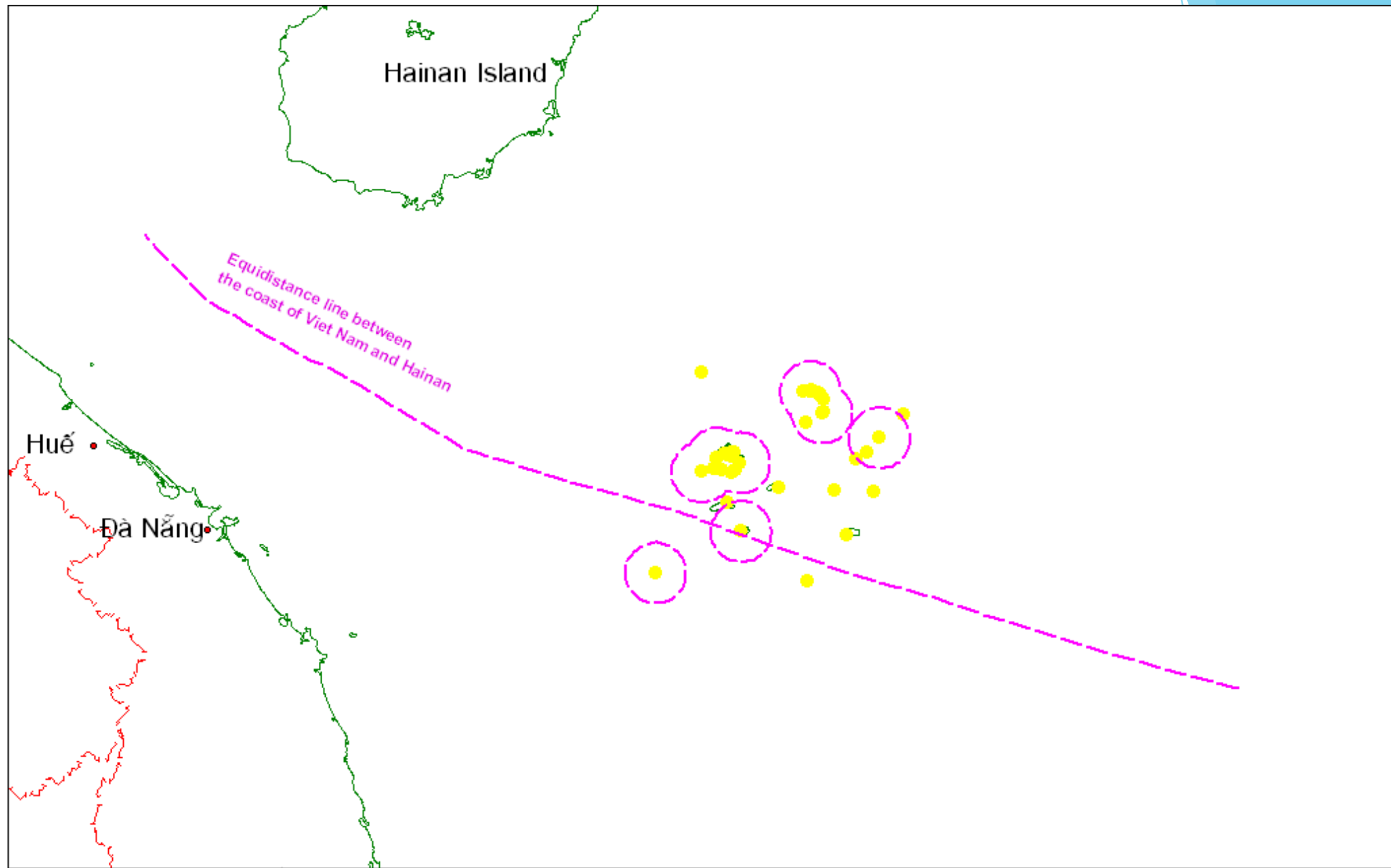
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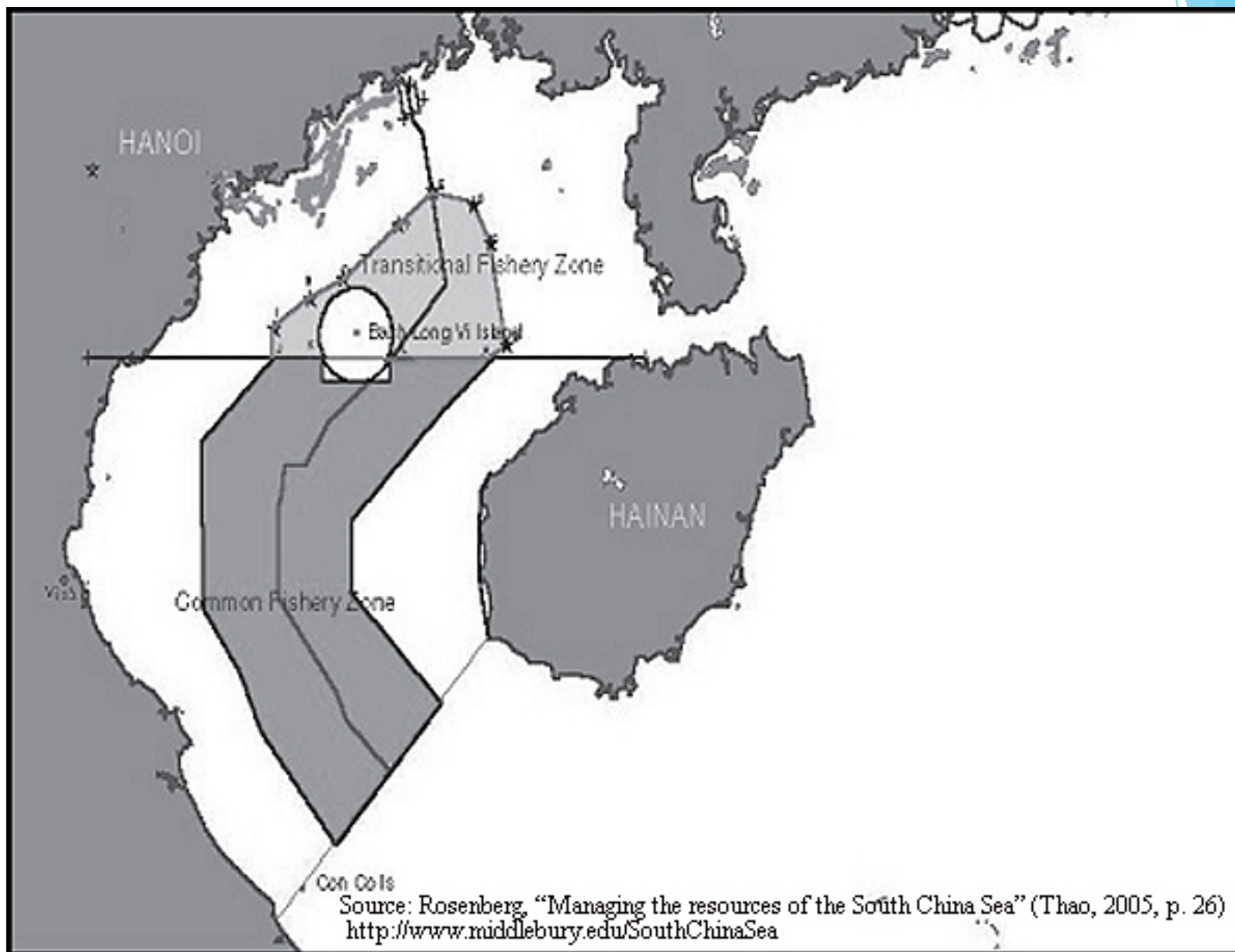
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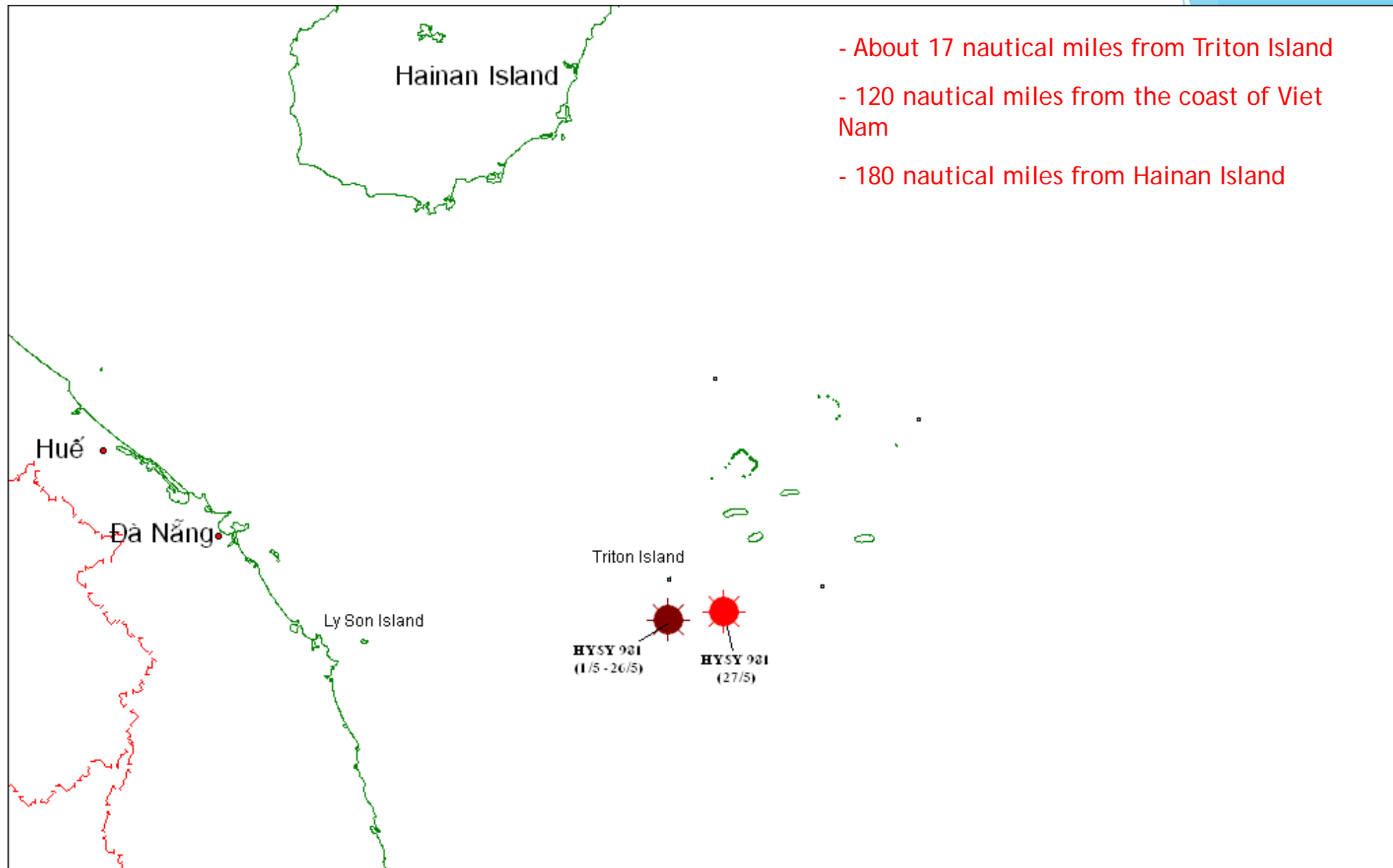
Entitlement of Paracel Islands

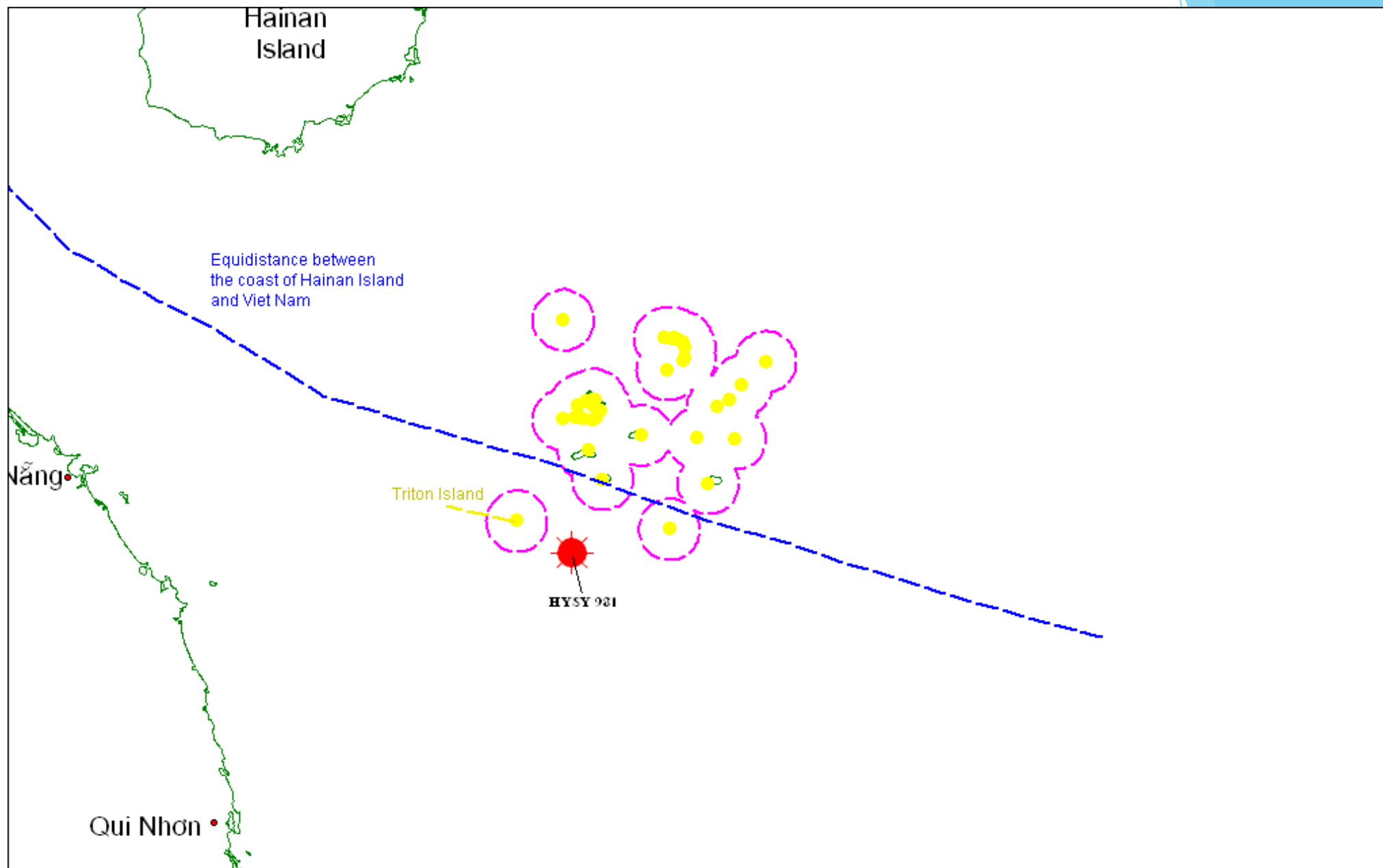






The Operation of Hayang Shiyou 981





- ▶ Sovereign rights and jurisdiction of a coastal State in its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf;
- ▶ Freedom of navigation of States in the exclusive economic zone;
- ▶ Safety of navigation;
- ▶ Prohibition to use force or threaten to use force in international relations.

Perspectives for Solution

- ▶ Refrain from drilling unilaterally in undelimited areas beyond the equidistance line between the coast of Hainan Island and Viet Nam
- ▶ Delimitating the area off the Gulf of Tonkin, enclaving Paracels for joint development
- ▶ Initiating talks with regards to the sovereignty over the Paracels
- ▶ Using international tribunals and arbitration